

Family Engagement



Family Engagement Introduction

- Over 50 years of research links the variety of roles parents play in the lives of their children.
- One role parents serve is as an advocate for the education of their child.
- We know that parent and family engagement has a sustained and systemic effect on learning outcomes for children.

Joining Process

- Welcoming, honoring and connecting with families create a school community in which everyone can say they feel like “members of a family”. Parents respond to this culture by becoming loyal members of the school community, and by taking part in their children’s education in ways they had never envisioned.

Goals for this session

- To reflect on our definition of family engagement and to come to a common consensus as to what we mean by family engagement.
- To identify strengths in promoting family engagement in our schools.
- To identify barriers we face in engaging families at school.
- To share strategies that strengthen family engagement and address barriers.



Small Group Activity

- Define family engagement.
- What could you change or add to your definition to address family engagement in literacy development?



Large Group

- As a group, let's come up with a good, working definition of what we all mean when we talk about family engagement.



Small Group

- Discuss barriers you have encountered with engaging families in school events, in particular literacy activities.

Large Group Discussion

Let's discuss the barriers you came up with in your groups.

(refer to large sticky note pad from each group)

Discussion on Barriers

What are ways we can work to elevate the barriers we encounter when we seek to involve parents in as partners with our schools?

(use large sticky pad to capture ideas from large group)

Generalization

As we work through this project together, we will be asking you to take this information and look at a family engagement plan for your district.

What would you identify as the strengths in your plan?

Are there any thoughts or ideas that you want to take back with you to reflect on in your district teams?

Next Steps

- Dialogue with each district regarding family engagement
- Our goal is to work with each district individually to come along side you in where you are with family engagement and in moving forward.
- We will also be assisting you with any parent training specific to your school and will be creating a resource guide for families that you can share with them.

- Thank you for your participation if you have further questions please don't hesitate to reach out to us.
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